

WASATCH COUNTY

There were no registered dentists in the very early days of Heber or Provo Valley. Bishop John Watkins and Hiram North of Midway, and William Wright of Charleston, pulled aching or decayed teeth with forceps or pincers. Many of the pioneers of the valley went to them for help and the extraction was done as a neighborly act of kindness. Emily Coleman tells of her little brother suffering with an aching tooth. She was instructed to take the little boy to the home of Hiram North and have his tooth pulled.

Elisha Jones, Sr., came to Heber from Provo. He was the first pioneer dentist of Heber. The instrument he used was a small pair of pincers. In 1864 he established the trade of blacksmithing. His daughter, Eliza Moulton, now eighty-four years of age, says that her father took the files he was unable to use for blacksmithing work, filed them and made knives of them.

Early licensed dentists were Dr. William Sessions, Dr. Westphal, Dr. Brigham Witt, Dr. Charles Wherritt, Dr. Sabin and Dr. Harold R. Read. Dr. Brigham Witt was one of Provo Valley's native pioneers. He went away to learn dentistry and returned to make his home in

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Heber where he practiced dentistry for many years. Many of the older people of the valley are still wearing the dentures made by him. Dr. Read practiced in that area for many years. He passed away May 16, 1944.

The first Drug Store was opened in Heber in 1889 under the management of Richard Bridge, Sr. When he and his family moved to Salt Lake county, drugs were sold in the same building by Turner brothers. William Flider came to Heber and opened a drugstore which he operated for a few years.—Ethel D. Johnson